



Europe

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Monday, 09 January 2012

**Object: Draft RSPG opinion on the process for EU assistance in bilateral negotiations with third countries and between EU countries**

Dear RSPG Chair,

GSMA Europe would like to thank the Radio Spectrum Policy Group for giving stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the draft opinion on "the process for EU assistance in bilateral negotiations with third countries and between EU countries".

GSMA Europe welcomes the suggested processes of assistance from the Union at the political level to support bilateral negotiations in case where Member States have difficulties in cross-border coordination or from harmful interference with third countries, as well as the use of the "good offices" of the RSPG in finding solutions for cases of harmful interference or unresolved coordination issues with other countries.

In some cases, Member States administrations have already signed bilateral coordination agreements related to 800 MHz band with non-EU neighboring countries. Some national regulatory bodies in Central Eastern European countries have also established a website focusing on the digital switchover process ([www.CEERRegionalWorkingGroup.net](http://www.CEERRegionalWorkingGroup.net)).

Such efforts represent a significant step in building the grounds for the deployment of the mobile systems across Europe. However, some EU countries as well as surrounding Central Eastern and South Eastern European Countries are still behind with the development of the Digital Dividend. It is of outmost importance that EU Member States as well as surrounding countries that are not Members of the Union and not yet following the EU schedule of the digital switchover of broadcast provide additional efforts in releasing the spectrum for mobile broadband use and prepare for the timely assignment of the 800 MHz spectrum to mobile operators. In such cases where border coordination issues appear, the support or assistance from relevant EU bodies would be welcomed.

GSMA has also developed a toolkit with background material ranging from recent auctions and status updates across regions to practical guidance for governments and regulators on digital migration which we hope will further smooth progress towards Digital Dividend allocation throughout the world  
<http://www.gsmworld.com/ddtoolkit/introduction.html>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Whitehead", with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Martin Whitehead  
Director, GSMA Europe